

soon died*. The specimen, preserved in spirit, I am about to deposit in the British Museum.

I wish to dedicate this genus to the venerable author of 'A History of the British Stalk-eyed Crustacea,' to whom I personally owe a life-long debt of esteem, and gratitude, and love†. And the species to the friend to whom science is indebted for its fortunate discovery.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE X.

- a. *Bellidia Huntii*, magnified ‡.
- b. The anterior organs, viewed from above.
- c. The tail-plates.
- d. The left hand.
- e. One internal antenna.

XXXIX.—On *Hancockia eudactylota*, a Genus and Species of *Mollusca*, supposed to be new. By PHILIP HENRY GOSSE, F.R.S.

[Plate XI.]

Family Tritoniadæ.

HANCOCKIA (gen. nov.), Gosse.

Body linear, scarcely palliate.

Head, beneath, produced on each side into a broad, flat, many-fingered oral tentacle.

Dorsal tentacles two, with laminated bulbs, retractile within sheaths.

Branchiæ three pairs, foliate, pinnatifid, infolding, remotely seated on the subpalliate margin of the back.

Foot linear, grasping.

Hancockia eudactylota, Gosse.

The only known species.

Body (*a*, *b*) about half an inch in length when crawling,

* My friend favours me with the following note:—" *Bellidia* is doubtless a rocky shrimp, not a sandy one; and its colours would match the beautiful red weeds among which it is found. I believe it was off a mass of red weed that I picked the *Hancockia* (see the following memoir), and the very minute *Aplysia* found on the same occasion, which I afterwards showed you."

† I had at first written the word as "*Bellia*;" but I find that this form is already occupied in zoology. As I do not choose to relinquish my tribute of affection to my friend, I adopt another termination.

one sixteenth of an inch in width, linear, parallel-sided, nearly opaque, of an olive-colour, much paler beneath. An internal mass seen through the skin and flesh, between the first branchiæ, most conspicuous in the lateral view (*a*), of a rich brown hue, is doubtless the liver. The whole upper surface is clothed, more especially toward the posterior portion, with a transparent skin, nearly colourless under transmitted, but of a light bluish-green hue under reflected light. This envelops the dorsal tentacle-sheaths and the exterior of the branchial leaves, and forms a loose web in the angles caused by the projection of these organs, and gathers in loose irregular folds over the ridge on each side from which they spring. This membrane is everywhere studded with subconical tubercles of denser substance. The under parts are destitute of this membrane.

Oral tentacles (*c*) large and conspicuous, each terminating in a conical process, whose flat bottom is applied to the ground in crawling, and from whose edge radiate three or four long fingers, alternating with as many rudimentary ones, the whole bearing a striking resemblance to the foot of a triton or frog. These hands of outstretched fingers are constantly used, in crawling, to feel the way: the fingers contract suddenly, in various degrees, every instant; and by their movements it is indubitably seen that these tentacles are very sensitive organs of touch.

Dorsal tentacles proceeding from the shallow trumpet-like extremities of large erect sheaths (*d*), which are thick, columnar, and very mobile. The sheaths are composed of the common dense tissue for the greater portion of their length; but this rises into points near the extremity, whose interspaces are filled by a more delicate pellucid web, forming the trumpet-mouth, which again is furnished with subconical points along its edge. From the centre of this trumpet-mouth projects the tentacle (*e*), in form of a short clavate column, with a basal bulb, which under high magnification divides into oblique leaves. The tentacle-tip usually reaches beyond the level of the trumpet-mouth, to the extent of about half of the latter's diameter; but it can be retracted wholly out of sight, without any sensible change of form in the sheath. The length of the sheath alone is more than the greatest width of the body.

Branchiæ three on each side, springing from a sort of palial-ridge clothed with the loose membrane already alluded to. They appear at first sight to be stout ovate processes with short thick peduncles. But prolonged examination reveals that each is a broad thick leaf (*f*), of nearly circular outline, whose edge is deeply incised, so as to form five pairs and a

terminal one, of irregularly notched leaflets. In general, the two sides of this leaf are incurved toward each other (*g*), facing outwards, so that the points meet and overlap loosely, frequently opening irregularly. Their appressed surface is delicate and transparent; their exterior rough and tuberculous, and of a blackish hue.

Head distinct; the mouth (*c*) opening as a longitudinal slit.

Foot parallel-sided, nearly as wide as the body when the animal is crawling on a flat ground; but able to bring its lateral edges together, to grasp such an object as a linear seaweed. It ends in an abrupt blunt point, which reaches a little behind the body.

This genus seems to find its place in the family Tritoniadæ, very near to *Scyllæa*, which it resembles in form, and colour, and general facies; but from which it signally differs in the possession of well-formed elaborately-furnished oral tentacles, and by the deeply incised, infolding branchial lobes. I have not attempted to dissect my unique example; thus my acquaintance with its anatomy is limited to so much as can be discerned from without.

This minute, but very interesting nudibranch was dredged by Mr. A. R. Hunt, near Torquay, on Aug. 10, 1877; as I have more particularly described in my memoir on *Bellidia Huntii*, p. 315 *supra*. It was very readily kept in captivity for nearly three weeks, bearing rather rough treatment with impunity; and it died at last only by an accident. It would crawl rapidly on sea-weeds, and occasionally would float foot upward at the surface. On one occasion, as it was thus self-suspended at the surface of the water, I noticed that the flotation was not performed by the expanded foot, as I had supposed, and as is usual with similar mollusks; for the edges of the foot were actually in mutual contact throughout, and thus this organ was reduced to a mere line. The thought occurred, that possibly a narrow film of air might be inclosed within the folded foot; and I watched with interest till the animal should sink, to observe whether any tiny bubble would arise from it. I waited till it began to crawl on the bottom, and till I could see clearly the tip of the foot projecting behind, whereby I was sure that this organ was wholly flattened; but no pellicle of air appeared.

On another occasion, when thus floating, the foot was expanded, and the broad palms of the oral hands were in contact with the circumjacent air.

After I had kept my little captive about a week, I found floating at the surface of the water a mass of spawn-ribbon,

forming two complete figure-of-eight coils (*h*), in which a multitude of ova were irregularly scattered, much as in the spawn of *Doto*, as represented by Alder and Hancock (Br. Nudibr. Moll. fam. 3, pls. 5, 6).

A week later still these ova had become so many actively-revolving embryos. Each chorion, of an oval form, enclosed a single embryo, which rapidly rotated by means of long cilia. The ciliated organs were thick uncouth masses, rather than the flattened symmetric lobes of the infant *Doris* and *Eolis* (as figured by A. & H.); and the shell appeared more irregular, and much less nautiloid. Some of the embryos were much larger and apparently more advanced than their fellows.

This specimen, as the preceding, I hope to present, duly preserved in spirit and labelled, to the British Museum.

The generic name is given in honour of the late Albany Hancock, one of the conjoint authors of the very beautiful "Monograph of the British Nudibranchiate Mollusca."

The *nomen triviale* (well-fingered) alludes to the curious appendages of the oral tentacles, and glances also at the digitate incision of the branchial leaves.

It is not without a strong sense of the evil of "thrusting uncalled-for synonyms into the nomenclature of science" that I venture to give names to these forms; and my misgiving is the greater because my position, remote from the centres of literature, and my protracted abstention from descriptive natural history, have too much shut out from my cognition the advance of science. The creatures described were, however, so novel to me, and so attractively interesting, that I can only venture and hope.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XI.

- a, b.* *Hancockia eudactylota*, viewed laterally and dorsally, magnified 7.
- c.* The anterior parts, from beneath.
- d.* A dorsal tentacle and sheath.
- e.* The same, obliquely from above, without the sheath.
- f.* A branchial leaf (drawn diagrammatically).
- g.* The same, in its ordinary condition.
- h.* Spawn.

XL.—*Descriptions of twenty-three new Species of Hesperidæ from his own Collection.* By W. C. HEWITSON.

Myscelus Orthrus.

Alis utrinque rufis: anticis basi marginibusque fuscis punctis novem